

As noted earlier, Superfund distinguishes between short-term and long-term responses to threats posed by hazardous substances. Our short-term responses, also called removal actions, address immediate threats to public health and the environment. Region III's Emergency Response and Removal Program has compiled an impressive record of accomplishment in protecting citizens, businesses and the environment in the Mid-Atlantic states over the past 20 years, investigating and aggressively addressing chemical releases, explosions, extreme soil and water contamination, and oil spills through the Oil Program.

EPA has initiated more than 30 emergency response actions throughout Delaware to remove immediate threats to public health and the environment.

Once soil contamination was discovered at the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Sussex County, Region III's emergency responders determined the contamination resulted from lead shot from a nearby shooting range. Today, EPA is working closely with the Department of the Interior to address the contamination in the refuge and is conducting a more extensive investigation of area soils and groundwater.

Dangerously high levels of lead and chemical contamination once made the Diamond State Salvage Site a terrible blight to the community. Not only could this four-acre eyesore erode contaminants into nearby



Diamond State Salvage Site, Wilmington: High lead levels and chemical contamination at this site once posed an immediate health threat to the local community.



## & REMOVAL: AGGRESSIVE AND FAIR



residential and industrial areas, but it threatened to impact the nearby Brandywine Creek. Since 1998, EPA has worked closely with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the City of Wilmington to remove over 85,000 tons of contaminated soils. As EPA installs a water diversion structure to limit the site's impact on the Creek, the Agency is gearing up to apply innovative wetlands restoration techniques that will ultimately return this tidal wetland to the local community.



When Region III quick response teams arrived at the East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Drum Site in Fall of 1998, they found an abandoned waste dump littered with drums, bulk containers and severely contaminated soils. EPA quickly conducted a massive removal effort to ensure all drums, containers and contaminated soils were removed. Working with state and local officials, EPA has placed a protective barrier over the area and revegetated the site to eliminate any potential human health threat. What was once a blight to the area is now a grassy area bordered by the Brandywine Creek and Christina River.



Diamond State Salvage Site, Wilmington: Working with DNREC and the City, EPA removed over 85,000 tons of contaminated soils. Today the Agency is focused on applying innovative restoration techniques to return this wetland to the community.

EPA worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during the severe flooding and devastation caused by Hurricane Floyd last year. Region III canvassed waterways for 'orphan' drums and tanks throughout portions of the Mid-Atlantic region. Working in unison with federal, state

and local responders, Region III quick response teams also helped citizens ensure their flooded homes were safe from hazardous substance leaks and/or vapors.

We're also focused on the safe handling of chemicals. This topic has generated a great deal of national attention following the infamous 1984 Bhopal chemical disaster, and more recently, the deliberate chemical release in a Tokyo subway.

EPA prepares for contingencies such as biological and chemical warfare incidents, local preparedness issues, and first responder safety. The Mid-Atlantic Region also offers hazardous materials response training at no charge to about 1,000 firefighters, paramedics, hospital and emergency workers, military and police officers each year.

Region III's preparedness team also plays an integral role in vital security issues at national events. When the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit in Washington, D.C. last year, intense preparation was required for the largest gathering of world leaders ever in the nation's capital. In order to shorten potential response times for any accidental or deliberate hazardous substance release, Region III was part of the multi-agency task force whose 'behind-the-scenes' efforts resulted not only in a successful summit, but a new supplement to the nation's Federal Response Plan.

When Philadelphia hosts this year's Republican National



EPA Region III supported FEMA during severe flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd last year.



EPA canvassed waterways for 'orphan' drums and tanks that contained hazardous materials.

EPA Region III has removed approximately

**37,000**

gallons of hazardous liquids and

**16,000**

cubic yards of contaminated soils and solid waste in Delaware since 1986.

(Note: these amounts are for Superfund-lead removals that have been completed. PRPs and federal facilities do not report amounts of waste removed)





EPA's emergency response and removal branch addresses oil spills throughout the Mid-Atlantic states.



Oil collects at wetland edge.



Turtle affected by oil spill.

Convention July 31 through August 4, Region III employees will work closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and FEMA to ensure shortened response times for any potential hazardous substance release, accidental or intentional, at this gathering of people.

Experience has shown that emergency preparedness improves when local stakeholders share information and participate in environmental decision-making. To that end, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), coupled with the Clean Air Act (CAA), enable citizens to become knowledgeable about facilities that report hazardous chemicals that they store or handle, by providing public access to the reports.

Last year, EPA required companies that store or handle hazardous wastes to submit Risk Management Plans (RMPs) to inform the public of what they are doing to prevent accidents, as well as how they plan to manage their chemicals responsibly. Summaries of these plans are now available to the public to help us better understand the chemical risks in our communities.

Region III's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPP) Program has responded to these growing issues and concerns, providing leadership, building partnerships and offering technical assistance to:

- Prevent and prepare for chemical emergencies;
- Respond to environmental crises;
- Inform the public about chemical hazards in their community, and
- Share lessons learned about chemical accidents.